THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

CONSISTING OF

ORIGINAL PIECES AND SELECTIONS FROM PERFORMANCES OF MERIT, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

A WORK CALCULATED TO DISSEMINATE USEFUL KNOWLEDGE AMONG ALL RANKS OF PEOPLE AT A SMALL EXPENCE,

BY

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F R S. F A S. S.

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VOLUME SEVENTH.

APIS MATINÆ MORE MODOQUE. HORACE.

PLUS ULTRA
ARTS
SCIENCES
POLITE LITERATURE
AGRICULTURE
MANUFACTURES
NAVIGATION
TRADE.

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THE BEE,

OR

LITERARY WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER,

FOR

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4. 1792.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF *JOHN, EARL OF MARR,* SON OF THE REGENT.

To the Editor of the Bee.

JOHN ERSKINE, earl of Marr, governor of Henry prince of Wales, lord high treasurer of Scotland, and knight of the garter, was the son of John, earl of Marr, regent of the Scots, and Arabella Murray daughter of William Murray of Tullibardine *. He was born at Alloa house in the year 1558 †. The premature and unfortunate death of his father, left him the inheritance of his family in nonage; but his mother, who was a sensible woman, and George Buchanan, who was his preceptor, prevented him from suffering the utmost extent of so great a misfortune. But the tuition of Buchanan came rather too late for the proper instruction of Marr, who was previously under the care

* Ancestor of the Murrays Dukes of Athole.

† Crawfurd's lives of the Scotch officers of State, fol. 1726.

of Mr John Colvill*, a strict presbyterian, but of no great scope of genius. On the death of the regent, which happened on the 29th of October 1572, the care of his children as well as of King James VI. was committed to the regent's brother, Sir Alexander Erskine of Gogar, to George Buchanan, Mefs. Adam † and David Erskines ‡, and Mr Young, under the government and direction of the old Countefs of Marr, whofe loyalty and tendernefs to the royal family of Stuart, had induced her to suckle the young king and afterwards to be his nurse and attendant, under the commifsion of the regent and parliament of Scotland ||.

* See Randolph's memorial to Queen Elizabeth, hereafter to be inserted in this memoir, who calls him Marr's Pedagogue.

† Adam Erskine, commendator of Cambuskenneth, was the natural fon of Thomas, mafter of Erskine, the immediate elder brother of the regent, who was ambafsador in England in the year 1551, and marrying Margaret, daughter of Macolm Lord Fleming, died without lawful ifsue.

‡ David Erskine, natural son of Robert, master of Erskine, the immediate elder brother of Thomas, by Jean Home, he was first abbot and then commendator of Dryburgh; from whom are descended the families of Shieldfield in Lauderdale, Ralph and Ebenezer Erskines, the famous Scotch seceders, their families, and feveral others.

Mr Peter Young sub-preceptor, was chosen by Buchanan.

|| A curious account is given of a cholic with which her royal charge was seized at Stirling, whereupon, in the dead hour of the night, the ladies were all called out of bed to attend the child, when it was remarked by the recorder of this accident, that none of the ladies had any shifts, except the auld Countefs of Marr, her ladyship being tender, (sickly.) The young king having one day got for his theme from Buchanan, the history of the conspiracy against James III. at Lauder, where Archibald, Earl of Angus obtained the name of Bell the Cat, from his telling them the fable of some rats that had combined against a cat, when they proposed to seize and tye a bell about his neck, to

In the year 1570, after Buchanan's public situations were at an end, and the young king became of an age to receive the seeds of useful learning, Lord Marr, being then twelve years old, began to imbibe the instructions of that admirable preceptor, together with his cousins Alexander, Thomas, and George Erskines, the sons of Sir Alexander the king's governor, and some other relations of the house of Marr; the whole illustrious group forming as it were a little academy; the most favourable education for a young monarch that can be imagined, and which must have made James a great sovereign, if his understanding had been equal to his advantages. Of these companions and fellow scholars of the king, Alexander was

warn them of their danger; but as they were going to put their project in execution, one of the old rats asked which of them would be the first to seize the cat. This witty question created a profound silence, when Angus exclaimed, "I'll bell the cat!" After dinner this day, the young king romping and trifling with the master of Erskine, the Earl of Marr's eldest son, Buchanan ordered the king to be silent and not to interrupt Erskine in his reading; to which command James paying no attention, Buchanan said, that if he did not hold his peace he would whip his breech. "Will you so? said the king, I would fain see who will bell the cat." Up starts Buchanan, and throwing away his book, performs his promise to the king, with a sound drubbing. The old Countess being in her apartment, which was immediately adjoining, runs up to the poor kingling, takes him up into her arms, and asks him what is the matter? Which being told by the bawling sovereign, she fiercely asks Buchanan how he durst lay his hand on the Lord's anointed? To which Buchanan very gravely replied, "madam, I have whipt the king for disobedience and rudeness in the usual way, you may heal it with a kiss if you please."

Upon another occasion, the master of Erskine having a tame sparrow, the king resolved to take it from him; Erskine resisted, and the

killed at the surprise of Stirling castle 1578, Thomas, who became a great favourite of the king's, and was supposed to save him from Gowrie's assassination, was made Viscount Fenton and Earl of Kelly, and after the king went to London, a knight of the garter, George became one of the Lords of session or Scotch judges, and living to a good old age, used to recount many of the little anecdotes of the royal college at Stirling, to his grandson the learned Earl of Cromarty; by whom they were imparted to Dr George Mackenzie, author of the lives and characters of the most eminent writers of the Scotch nation; a book, which though loaded with extraneous matter, contains many authentic

king in the struggle, killed the poor sparrow. Buchanan gave the king a box on the ear for his tyranny and cruelty!

Would to God we had a breed of Buchanans, to train young princes to humanity and justice! MACKENZIE'S LIVES.

After the appointment of Morton to the regency, the Lords of the secret council by the admonition of the estates of Parliament, gave a charge to Alexander Erskine, the late regent's brother, the original of which, is in the archives of the family of Marr at Alloa castle, wherein are the following decrees and admonitions: "That the said Alexander be himself, and the friends of the young Earl of Mar his nephew, for quilks he sall be answerable, sall keip the castel of Striveling, in name, and to the use and behufe of our Sovereign Lord; and sall alswa surely and faithfully, keip and observe the maist nobill person of his Hieness within the said castle, at the devotion of his said present regent, his Hieness continuing as afore, under the noriture of the lady Countesse of Marr his Majesty's governante, as toward his mouthe and ordering of his person, *&c.* And that the instruction and education of our said sovereign Lord on literature and religion, under Maisters George Buchanan and Peter Young his present pedagogis, or such as sall hereaftir be appointit be the said Lord Regent, agreeing in religion with the said George and Peter, as it is approvit in Parliament, and usit in the said castell, *&c.* *&c.*

and curious memorials worthy of being separated from the mafs.

In a bundle of old papers belonging to one of this school, I found lately some of the *primæ curæ* of Buchanan's satires, which had been transcribed by Lord Innerteil, or some of his acquaintance, and differ considerably from Buchanan's printed works.

In the year 1578, when Mar had attained to his twentieth year, and looked forward to the full pofsefsion of his estate, Morton, backed by the English interest, filled Erskine with high expectations, and prompted him to emancipate the young king from the councils of the bishop of Rofs, and the adherents of his mother. With this view he induced Marr to the *Raid*, as it was called, for investing James with the government, by the surprise of Stirling castle; in which attempt his cousin Alexander, the eldest son of his uncle Sir Alexaner Erskine of Gogar, was killed.

A compromise took place, by which it was agreed, that the Earl of Marr, being now come to resaonable age, should attend the king's person, and have the custody of the castle of Stirling, and that Sir Alexander Erskine, his uncle, should be governor of the castle of Edinburgh, one of the gentlemen of his Majesty's bed chamber, and, when he came to court, to have his table at the king's charge as formerly*: That the Earl of Marr should guard the castle, attend the king's person therein,

* Spottiswoode's Ecclesiastical history.

and not remove him to any place whatsoever, without the knowledge and consent of the council: That he should not receive any within the house, whom he knew not to be well affected to the king, admitting an earl, with two only in train, a lord baron with one only, and gentlemen without any attendant: That Maister George Buchanan and Maister Peter Young, should continue his Majesty's instructors, and no others admitted without the council's consent, nor any religious exercise be kept within the castle, but that which the parliament had approved: And for the observation of these articles, the earls of Athole, Angus, Argyle, and Montrose, with the lords Ruthven, and others, gave their bond and obligation; as also, for the safe delivery of the castle of Edinburgh with its muniments.

After this, a convention was held at Stirling on the 25th of July, where there convened of the clergy, eight bishops, and as many abbots or commendators, of the nobility, nine earls and eleven lord-barons, and many commifsioners of boroughs, the earl of Morton attended at the particular desire of the king; where his Majesty announced his acceptation of the supreme government, and his resolution to hold the meeting of the estates at Stirling for his security, and not at Edinburgh. After many protests of the legal parliament summoned to meet at the capital on the tenth of July, after its rising, the king published a proclamation, and amnesty, declaring: "That it was his desire to remain at Stirling, and be served by

the Earl of Marr, with whom he knew his surety was greater than if he should be at the devotion of those that caused the present troubles, whose meanings towards him, could be no better than it had been in times past*. After this, the whole matter of the ecclesiastical discipline of the kirk of Scotland was adjusted; and it is foreign to my purpose, to enter into the detail of any tranſaction in which Marr was not immediately concerned†.

In the year 1579, Marr was joined in a commiſsion with the earls of Morton and Eglinton, the lords Cathcart, Ruthven and Boyd, to seize the persons and estates of the lords John and Claud Hamiltons, who had the lands of Hamilton, during the insanity of Arran. And this, on account of their supposed acceſsion to the murder of Murray and Lennox, which excepted them from the general indemnity stipulated by the treaty of Perth.

On the 8th of September, Esme Stuart, lord d'Aubigny, the king's near kinsman, being descend-

* Spottiswoode.

† Dr Robertson, in his history of Mary Queen of Scots, has, with great propriety, had recourse to Calderwood's large manuscript history of the church, in the archives of the general aſsembly, for determining the minute particulars of this confused and barbarous period of our Scottish annals; from whence Spottiswoode and Crawfurd had drawn their information. This manuscript of Calderwood ought to be printed; and were a subscription opened I have no doubt that it would ſoon be filled, and the work presented to the public with suitable notes biographical and political. Such as may desire to support this undertaking, would do well to announce their names to the Editor of this Miscellany, when a bookseller would be found to put it to the preſs, with consent of the commiſsioners and procurator of the church of Scotland.

ed from the princess Mary, eldest daughter of king James II. made his appearance at the Scottish court; and soon, by his handsome person, agreeable address, and affectionate submissions to the king *, superseded the young Earl of Marr in favour and confidence,

* In an original letter from Nicholas Arrington to the lord treasurer Burleigh, preserved in the Cotton library [cal. 6. fol. 2.] 4th April 1580, are the following curious particulars relating to Esme Stuart Lord d'Aubigny:

" I have maid my repaire unto the Kinge of Scotts, being at Straveling, and haithe delyvered unto him the Queen's Hieness's letter &c. The King's Hieness passing to his cabinet did reed the letter once or twice over with good delyberacion, as Maister Peter Younge his scoul maister told me, &c. The mynistres (clergy) ar presentlie, if they have convencion to charge d'Aubigny and his followers, Scottsmen, to make a resolute confession of their relygion, notwithstanding any dispenciacions This is thought to be be the procurement of the earl Morton, &c. I had conference with the mynistres of Edenburg and Leith, at my passing to Stravelinge, who told me they were determined to presse the King to avoyd the court of suche as wold not professe unfenydlye the trew relygion. I did not hynder their good myninge therein. The doubt of this haith maid Monsieur d'Aubigny in great dompts of lait, in so moche as he haith kept his chambre as it were not weil disposed, &c.

It is thought of many, that if certaine persons were from hyme, he wold be wone in short tyme. Hee is content to heare and reede, and hathe alledged, that if hee shold come sodenlye to the relygeion it wold be thoght it were done more of ambicion then of devocion. Yet trewlie, so farre as I can learne, the greatest hynderance thereof is the doubt he haithe of the losse of his lyvinge in France, which is thought to be more certayne than his new promocions in Scotland, &c.

The King is moche affected unto him, and dothe gyve hym books of the scripture in Frenche, and uses all meynes to forward him thereunto. Some of the mynistres holdit the opynyon that hee wantit but laboringe.

Here is greate myslykinge that the King is no bettere accompanyed with councellors, an that he frequents the fields, and hunting too moche.

who continued faithfully and honourably to attach himself to Morton; though it brought him into discredit at court, and that his affairs were disordered by the great expences his father had incurred during his short administration of the regency†.

[*To be continued.*]

OBSERVATIONS
ON THE
HISTORY OF PORTUGAL.

I KNOW of no period of hiſtory, on which the pen of a man of talents could be employed with a better prospect of succeſs, than that part of the his-

* Dealings of William Randolph with the Earl of Angus Cotton lib. cal. 6. fol. 135. 1°. Martii 1580.

" And because, that my Lord of Mar hath noe leſse confidence in your Lordshippe (Lord Burleigh,) he requyres your answer by writing to the poynt following.

" The late Earl engaged all his landes and plate for grete somes of money, during the tyme of his Government which the Kinge requires now at his hand."

With the articles wherein this memorial is contained, Mr John Colvill the Kings master of requests and pedagogue to the Erle of Mar, was ſent from the Earl of Angus by the medium of the Laird of Wedderburn,

The Earls having an enterprise in view against the faction of d'Aubigny, and captain Stewart had obtained Randolph's ring, as a secret taken of Elizabeth's support, which ring was brought back from Lord Hundson at Benuck by Coloin. The whole of this memorial in the Cotton library, entitled the dealings of Mr Randolph with Angus, &c. is extremely circumstantial and curious. I have a fair manuscript copy of all that relates to our Scottish history, during the years 1580 and 81, in the Cotton library. I do not recollect, whether these lines have been yet printed. If not they are well worthy of the Preſs.

tory of Portugal, which intervenes between the reign of John the I. and the conquest of that kingdom by Philip the II. of Spain, a period of about one hundred and fifty years; during which time this small patch of a country, was distinguiſhed above all other nations for acts of heroism and magnanimity. It was during this period, that arose the illustrious Don Henry, whose name will ever be revered in the annals of history. This prince, the fifth son of king John, far outstripping those of the age in which he lived, informed by the perusal of antient writers, and instigated by ideas that an attentive study of geography suggested, puſhed forward in search of discoveries with a degree of intelligence, attention, and perseverance, that can find no parallel in the annals of time. His efforts were crowned with succeſs. Under his auspices Vasca de Gama, first doubled the Cape of good Hope, and imported by that route the treasures of India to his native ſhores. This important discovery gave quickly to Portugal, a decided superiority above all rival nations, and produced a revolution in the course of trade, which in a ſhort time totally changed the face of Europe. Wealth flowed in upon Portugal from all quarters. This inspired her people with an active energy, the usual attendant of succeſsful enterprises: Succeſs begot pride, insolence, presumption, injustice. The Indian nations were made to tremble at the nod of the Portuguese. Their dictates were deſpotic, and their enterprises unbounded. Nothing seemed to them impoſsible, and for a ſhort

period their history exhibits a series of brilliant actions, which perhaps cannot be equalled in the annals of heroism.

They already grasped in idea the unrivalled empire of the east. They were not aware that the natives gained knowledge from every defeat; they adverted not that their irritated minds acquired fresh accefsions of strength from every overthrow. They did not estimate the strength of that opposition which envy and rivalship prepared to raise up against them. European powers wished to share in the glory and the gains of Portugal. The natives of India ranged themselves invariably on the side of every power that was inimical to their opprefsors; and that nation, which had been fuddenly enriched by their spoils, was as suddenly humbled by an uninterrupted series of disasters, that the most rooted aversion of all parties stirred up against them. But the indignant minds of this people disdained any kind of submifsion. They fought to the last with invincible valour. Death or victory were the only alternatives; and when they fell, they fell to rise no more!

Every age, it has been justly remarked by an anonymous correspondent in the Bee, may be characterised by the history of some leading person or nation, whose history may be said to constitute the history of the times. In this manner the history of Portugal will give room to characterise the fifteenth century. As that nation began to decline, Spain, in consequence of a continued train of conquests in Europe, accompanied by the discovery of Ameri-

ca by Columbus, began to acquire the ascendency, and after the unfortunate expedition of Sebastian into Africa *, the glory of Portugal was annihilated. It was swallowed up by the voracious power of Spain, and ceased for a time even to be a kingdom. Spain then gloried in her distempered greatneſs, and strutted her hour upon the imperial theatre of the globe ; till, in imitation of that power ſhe had subdued, by attempting impoſsible exploits, ſhe sunk herself into irrecoverable abasement.

The historian, who with talents adequate to the task, ſhould delineate the rise, the progreſs, and the decline of the brilliant day of Portugal, would present the world with a morsel of history of the most important kind. His enquiry should begin with a review of the state of Europe, before the commencement of the period of his history. He ſhould give a rapid outline of the history of the nations, and the spirit of the times that preceded the era of which it treats. The trade, the arts, the learning, the modes of thinking, the vices, and the virtues, that characterised the times ſhould be distinctly marked, that they might be contrasted with the changes that were gradually produced

* *Sebastian* king of Portugal, instigated by that ambition which is natural to young princes, prepared a mighty army, and under a slight pretence invaded Africa, *anno* 1578, where his army was totally diſcomfited, and he himself could never afterwards be found. On this occasion his uncle Henry, an aged cardinal, aſsumed the reins of government, which, with great feebleneſs, he held little more than one year. On his death Philip the II. of Spain laid claim to the government of that kingdom, which being supported by a powerful army bore down all opposition, and he annexed that kingdom to Spain.

by the important transactions that occurred during this eventful *period**: This history might be concluded with a rapid glance at the spirit of modern times. Thus would the reader, as if placed on an eminence that divided two very dissimilar countries from each other, be able to see at one view the past and the present. In trying to penetrate into that tenfold darkness in which the world had been for several ages benighted; he would perceive the first streaks of dawn begin to arise. He would see aurora begin to illuminate the hemisphere. The sun at first obscured with clouds, and murky vapours would gradually become more and more conspicuous, till at last he breaks forth in all his glory. To pursue his progress would be a pleasing exercise. Some part of this progress we have already seen; but far is he as yet from having attained his highest meridian glory. The veil would be dropped where this history ends, before he had begun to descend; and to others would be left the ungracious task of marking his decline. May it never be our lot to see it!

A gentleman well known to the writer of this article, fired with the brilliancy of the subject, once entertained a momentary wish to attempt the task. He went so far as to get a friend to write to some gentlemen of the first rank for literature in Portugal on this subject, and met with every encouragement and assistance from them he could

* In his progress, the discoveries of Columbus, the conquest of Mexico and Peru, and the changes that these produced on Spain, and other European states would form important objects of discussion.

desire; but when he thought better upon the subject, he perceived that he had mistaken inclination for talents; and being fully sensible of the impoſsibility of his succeeding in a proper manner, he wisely relinquiſhed the design. I have seen the communications he received, and I think it pity these ſhould be lost. That another who is better qualified than my friend for attempting this enterprize, may be encouraged to proceed, I have obtained his permiſsion to publiſh such parts of these communications as may serve to benefit the public, without leading to a discovery of the persons from whom they came; and these I here subjoin.

Notices concerning the Hiſtory of Portugal, and the ſources from whence information on that subject may be drawn; being excerpts translated from several letters from men of eminence in Portugal, to a gentleman in Scotland.

LISBON, MAY 18. 1784.

BEFORE all I rejoice as a Portuguese, that Mr ———— ſhould undertake a philosophical history of our more interesting times. We have nothing like it in that way; although I may aſsure you it is impoſsible any nation ſhould have more materials for it; but to have those,—to be at the expence of getting many, and after that to have the tedious trouble of reading myriads of pages written, some in a barbarous stile, and about fooliſh and uninteresting matters, only to find one of those events, which characterise a nation or a man, to find a fact neceſsary to ſhow the cause of

such a discovery, or the ruin of it, &c. &c. is a thing which requires so much patience, expence, and time, before you can begin, that I fear Mr ———— will be disgusted in his first labours. Although I know many Portuguese have undertaken that task, and even now two are upon it, yet, as I am certain it is impossible for any one of my countrymen, to write their history with a philosophic propriety, living as they do in a place where superstition and ignorance hold yet too much dominion, I am ready to do every thing that may encourage Mr ———— to go on.

To proceed then regularly, I must tell you that you may inform your friend how manuscripts have become so rare here. The earthquake in 1755 was the last event that contributed to the ruin of those that had escaped the desolation of Portugal under the Philips. In private archives it is very difficult to find any. The two sources then from whence Mr ———— could get any of these, are the *Torre do Tombo, or Great Chancery of the Kingdom*, and the king's library; but to peep into such manuscripts is a matter of extreme difficulty and great expence; and it is almost impossible to get copies. To succeed in this attempt the person who undertakes it must have great patience and time; and for that reason I should advise Mr ———— to come himself, because with money and some credit, he would open all doors. Much informatiou can also be got in monkish archives, as those of *Alcobaca, Batatha, Belem, Satzedas, Santa Cruz, &c.*

but friars have been in all times, and particularly in illiterate ones, the framers of many false papers and titles, which makes these manuscripts lefs interesting, and lefs to be trusted. These at least are easier to be copied, as, with some expence, accefs may be had to every one of them. In all these archives, and in all the immense volumes of the history of those times, Mr ——— will find I think as many materials as he can wifh for writing it.

Having informed you of the difficulty of finding him manuscripts, I must pafs to another, which would perhaps prove forbidding, that is the trouble of reading so many volumes. Of these I send you inclosed as exact a list as I can at present recollect, with what I think or have known from my friends of each of them; and this I believe will ease a little Mr ———. He is notwithstanding somewhat mistaken when he thinks it would not be necefsary to send him lives of saints, for in the chronicles of the monkifh orders alone, he will find, such is our misery, many interesting facts not mentioned elsewhere.

Having acquainted you with the materials your friend may get for his task, I don't think it will be superfluous to point to him the difficulties with which he'll labour, before he can obtain an exact knowledge of the most remarkable events; as he certainly has it not in mind to build upon his fancy. First of all he will meet with those that respect the feudal system of government in Portugal, which was certainly different in some

respects, from that of the other European countries. Our historians have very clearly explained the Gothic and Moorish governments, but after the donation to count Henry by Alphonso of Spain, they have mentioned rather the progress of our conquests, than the manner by which those nobles, who gained upon the Moors with their own soldiers lands or small towns, held them. They were subjects to the crown, we know, they were obliged to acompany the kings to war, but were they requested, or forced; were they payed by the king or the nobles? that is a matter of dispute. We know that the *Cortes* only, could supply the king with subsidies, and that they made general laws, &c. &c. but we dispute yet upon the veracity of the *Côrtes de Lamego*. We are ignorant of the manner by which the cities began to send deputies to those meetings. We see the power of the clergy immediately in the beginning, by the scene of *Sancho Capillo*, but were they constituent mem-bers of the courts in the arliest times? We know that the ministers of the crown did not enter till John II. into the noble's lands, but that is not enough; all antient donations are signed by nobles, particularly great officers of the crown and great dignitaries of the church, as a sign of requiring that to be valid, but we see at the same time the nobility from antient date, with a salary and title of servants to the king. The provinces were governed in a manner by *fronteiros móres* made by the king; and this power which is not quite known how did it contrast, or was connected with the nobles

prerogatives? A *Prior* of Santarem published in his dominions some laws, but that was deemed a revolt. In fine, I would never finish, if I should mention every thing that is doubtful in these respects. But although many of these doubts which I pointed at are not impoſsible to be explained, and extricated from the labyrinth in which they lye, yet as I have only read the history of my country in general, and have not studied it so minutely in all its parts, I thought them a little in confusion as to these particulars so very worthy of attention. The number of families that we lost in the expulsion of the Moors and Jews (one of the first causes of our ruin) is unknown, and only in the manuscript of *D. Luis da Cunha*, I found the causes that moved *D. Manoel* to that rash action, not to mention the foolish superstition of the times. The contradictions to D. Henry, the facts respecting the Dukes de Visea and Braganza, although mentioned, are not enough explained by our printed historians, and I have seen only in manuscripts the sentences of the latter. The administration of the royal monopoly in India is known, but what it yielded to the crown is very much in the dark.

By this specimen he may see, (the rest being impoſsible to mention in a letter) every thing, but I must warn your friend above all, not to rely on any of the writers of foreign countries respecting our history. You may be witneſs that very few of the foreigners live here on an intimate footing with th Portuguese; and so when they go away they have as little, and as false informatin

to give as if they never had been here. In like manner all travels through Portugal, are full of absurdities and mistakes. The account which other writers have given of Portugal, must have been surely founded either upon false informations of insignificant travellers, or upon the few books they have read. *Busching's Geography* in his account of Portugal, *l'Encyclopedie* in its articles, *de Real* about Portugal, *l'Histoire Philosophique* on our commerce and establishments; and all particular geographies and voyages are so full of errors that it is better to put them aside. La Clede in his history of Portugal is full of absurdities, ignorant of many facts, false many times in the date, and good for nothing. I cannot but praise Dr Robertson, who rather than build upon false information, says very little or nothing about the feudal system of Portugal.

I send the list of those books that I could remember, but your friend shall have a better one than I can give him, as I have applied to a man who knows our history perfectly well.

I finish then telling you that considering the darkness in which we are, particularly for other nations, and the ignorance, and superstition of our writers; Mr ———— would advance more here in one year than he could do at home in many: And he must be tired to death in reading our books, it is only thence he ought to draw the materials for his work. As to what you tell me of it being received well here, that I can assure you it will, if it be founded on true facts. I will

show the letter to ———— and for that I don't send it this post.

A short CATALOGUE of Portuguese Books, capable of illustrating the History of Portugal, with a short Character of each.

1 Monarchia Lusitana ; a book anterior to the time of Don John I. full of falsehoods and absurdities.

2 Chronica de D. Joao 1st. ; better than the Memorias. 3.

3 Memorias do mesme.

4 Chronica d'Elrey D. Duarte ; 4th and 5th good

5 Chronica d'Elrey D. Alfonso ; for very little.

6 Chronicas d'Elrey D. Joao 2o. c. 3o. ; true and well written, although not free from the vice of the times.

7 Chronica d'Elrey D. Manoel ; not bad, but Ozorio is better ; although he says little of what is the most interesting.

8 Chronica d'Elrey D. Sebastian ; tolerable, but with all the defects of the times.

9 Joao de Barros, Decadas ; an excellent book in point of narrative, stile and truth.

10 Diego de Ceuto, Decadas ; not so well written, but true, as the author served upon the spot.

11 Memorias d'Alfonso d'Albuquerque ; good and authentic.

12 André de Rezende, Antiquides. ; a good book, and curious in its kind.

13 Diego de Teive, varias obras ; the same in its different parts.

14 Vida de D. Joao de Castro ; veridical and well written.

15 Duarte Nunes de Leao; curious in its different parts, but often extravagant.

16 Historia de Faria; written in the time of the Philips, and therefore partial.

17 Discursos varios de Gaspar Severem de Faria; excellent in its parts and kind.

18 Europa, Asia, e Africa, de Med. de Faria; the same as the above, it being ſo as to history.

19 America Portugueza de Sebastian da Rocha; a very indifferent book.

20 Dedua;o Chronologica; to be read with caution, having some false aſsertions.

21 Todas as Memorias d'Academia Real da historia; some excellent, and many bad.

22 Provas da historia genealogica; good, and taken from principal archives.

23 Collecſao des Leis de D. Alfonso vo.; manuscript.

24 Collec;ao ——— de D. Manoel; the same.

25 Nobiliarchia Portugueza; a curious book.

26 Historia de Gangerie; good and well written.

27 ——— de Ceuta; I believe very rare.

28 Sistima dos regimentos reais; a neceſsary book.

29 Ordena;oens do Reina; this is the principal code of printed statute laws.

30 Viagems de Fernao Mendes Pi nto.

Books of Literature.

31 Camoens; well known.

32 Poesias de Bernardes; excellent in language, and a good poet in what is not *divine*.

33 ——— de Ferreira; most pure in language, but a rough poet.

34 Poesias de Francisca de Sà e Miranda; our first poet, and for that esteemed.

35 Malaca conquistada; has good pafsages, but much inferior to Camoens.

36 Francisco Rodrigues Lebo; pure in language, and has some good verses, except in his poem of the Constables.

37 Obras de Garçao; the best modern poet in his odes.

38 Palmerin d'Anglaterra,; a well written romance in the two first parts.

39 Novo Metodo d'estudar; a good book for the time it was written in.

40 Metodo d'estudar a Historia Portugueza; so so.

41 Obras de Pe. Vieira; excellent, only for the study of the language.

42 Obras de Pedro Nunez; one of the best mathematicians of his time.

43 Roteiro de D. Joao de Castro ao Mar Rôxo; a work worthy of its author.

44 Poesias de Fernao Alr. da Orienti; esteemed, although they have only some pafsages deserving of praise.

Sound philosophy, nor much knowledge, must not be hoped for in those books; as it is well known in what darknefs the nation has almost always lain involved; and that its best times were in the age in which light began to break forth.

[*To be continued.*]

THE INFORMER,

No. I.

For the Bee.

Give unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's.

THERE is not to be found in the annals of jurisprudence, a juster sentence than that which I have adopted as the motto to this paper. To government alone, man owes all the blessings he derives from society; under *its* protection he can rest in peace, assured that he can suffer no material injury. To insure to him that tranquillity, many persons must be continually employed to reprehend and to punish offenders; and all these must be paid;—"*The labourer is worthy of his hire;*" but if money be not provided to pay for that hire, where shall he find it? Nothing, therefore, can be more just and expedient, than that the taxes imposed on the people, by an enlightened legislature, onght to be chearfully paid: Every one ought to "give unto Cæsar the things that be Cæsar's."

It does not however, follow, that all the demands of Cæsar ought to be implicitly acquiesced in, "*The labourer is worthy of his hire*" only when he is engaged in useful and beneficial employments. It were a great absurdity indeed, to insist that every sturdy fellow who shall be employed to annoy instead of protecting me, should have a title to claim payment for this his destructive labour. Some discrimination is necessary before

we can agree to comply with the injunction.

"*The king can do no wrong*," so say our legislators, and as our king is in a continual state of pupilage, being able to do nothing without the concurrence and consent of his ministers, who may be called his guardians, it has been wisely decreed that they and not he ſhould be answerable for his deeds. He may be weak, and incapable of judging, nor can he see any objects but through their eyes; it were therefore, cruel to make *him* answerable for faults that were perhaps the inevitable consequences of ignorance. The same excuse cannot be pleaded for the ministers: No neceſsity compels them to accept of that station. If they feel themselves ignorant or ill informed, they commit a crime in accepting an office that requires a degree of knowledge, which no one, so well as themselves, can know, whether they poſseſs it or not. If they are required to sanction measures that their own judgement disapproves of, they have it in their power to remonstrate against them, and if that ſhall not do, to resign, and thus to free themſelves from the danger they might have run by carrying them into effect. If they neglect to do this, and commit crimes in office that deserve puniſhment, surely they are to blame, and ought to suffer for their own faults.

"*The Parliament is said to be omnipotent*;" and in a political, though not in a physical sense, this may perhaps be admitted. The decrees of Parliament are, by the constitution of this country, binding on all the people. But parliament though in this

sense it be all powerfull, consists of men who are not infallible. The decrees of this afsembly, are often weak, contradictory, unjust, and destructive to the people, for whose service the members of it were created. These decrees ought therefore to be canvafsed with freedom, their tendency examined, and whenever they are plainly pernicious, their faults ought to be exposed, their baneful influence be held up to view, that the people may be enabled to unite and demand that they ſhould be repealed. The minister may be impeached at the bar of the House of Lords, and puniſhed for his crimes, the parliament may be tried by the dictates of reason, when arraigned before the tribunal of the people; and if, by their acts, they ſhall be convicted of ignorance or neglect of duty, they ought to be required either to correct their errors, or to give place to others who are better qualified than themselves to discharge the important functions of that office.

On these principles, I, who am a friend to government, stand up for the supremacy of reason, and lay claim to the privilege of investigating, with unlimited freedom, the tendency of decrees which have obtained the sanction of the legislature. In doing so I act the part of a friend to good government, to the king, and to my country.

The *excise* laws ſhall be the subject of the present discufsion. And here I wiſh to lay it down as a principle, that whatever law ſhall be found to be well adapted for raising a considerable revenue to the crown; or in other words for obtain-

ing the money *that is necessary* for the purposes of *good government*, without producing evils that couteract the design of all good government, should be called a good and necessary law.

The end of all good government is to promote the peace, to secure the property, and to protect the person of every subject of the state, from suffering unjust annoyance from any one. The laws that promote these objects are good. Those that have an opposite tendency are bad, and ought to be reprobated.

A law, therefore, which imposes a tax upon the subject, may be a very good law; but if, under the pretext of levying this tax, it subjects the property of any subject to unjust seizure, and his person to dangers and repeated alarms, it is cruel, unjust and oppressive: It can no longer be deemed a wise regulation of government, but an effusion of insanity and ignorance, if not of despotism and cruelty.

How it should have happened, that in a country whose inhabitants have ever expressed a great jealousy about their personal freedom, a set of laws should have been deliberately enacted, and for a long time patiently submitted to, that are so directly subversive of every principle of good government, as the general tenor of the excise laws in Britain are, it would be difficult to conceive. This difficulty, however, disappears before the man of extensive observation. He knows that *habit* gradually gets the better of judgement in every case; and that designing men, relying on

this prejudice of the mind, are capable, by slow degrees, of making the most palpable absurdities be not only tolerated, but even be idolized as superior to the dictates of reason itself. The influence of habit is such, as to make the man who dares attempt to controul it, run even the risk of being deemed insane,—a disturber of the public peace,—an enemy to good order, and a dangerous member of society.

In the laws respecting the *customs*, some regulations, though sparingly, have been adopted for punishing the officers who, in the discharge of their duty, overstep the bounds of their authority, and commit outrages on the subject; Judges have been fined, and put to death for errors in the discharge of the duties of their office; but where is the law that has been enacted for punishing an excise officer in the discharge of his duty? If there be such a law, I know it not. If there be such a law, the universal practice of all our courts disregards it.

The following case which recently happened in this country, plainly shows that there is no such law in existence.

A merchant in Edinburgh having lately imported some pieces of French cambrics, paid the duties for them; and every form required by law was complied with at the Customhouse. Some of this cambric was afterwards sold to a person who kept a retail shop in a country village. The goods, like others, were openly displayed in his shop. An excise officer happened to be there one day,

saw the cambric, and said he would seize it because it was not stamped. The ſhopkeeper remonstrated,—said it was not Britiſh goods, nor did he sell it as such, and that he knew no law in existence which required such a stamp on French cambric. Still the officer was deaf to all he said, and actually seized the goods, and carried them off in triumph. The poor man, astoniſhed at this procedure, and anxious about the fate of his property, wrote immediately to the merchant from whom he had bought it, stating the circumstances, and requiring his interference to free him from this scrape. The merchant took the advice of counsel learned in the law, how he ſhould proceed, and was advised to try if he could recover his goods "by *fair means*," as the easiest way for himself. The merchant, considering that a high trespaſs had been committed, said that he and partners were desirous of making an example of this man, with a view to deter others from doing the like. But he was told this was a very doubtful experiment, and the counsellor rather advised him to put up with the loſs already incurred, than throw out more money on that article, without hope of being reimbursed. He then turned up the statute respecting the importation of French cambrics, and read to him a clause which provided, "that if an excise officer, through ignorance, or *otherwise*, [*i. e.* or malice] ſhall make an unjust seizure of any of those goods, which ſhall have been thus legally imported, he ſhall be obliged, upon the importer or seller producing full evidence, to the sa-

tisfaction of the judge, that they have been legally imported, "*to deliver back the goods*;" but no penalty whatever is awarded as a punishment for this wanton attack upon private property. In this case the merchant had no other resource than to send authentic documents, that the goods in question had been legally imported, desiring the shopkeeper to show these to the excise officer, and to require him then to deliver them up, otherwise he should be forced to have recourse to law for the recovery of his property. Fortunately for the dealers, this excise officer was of a more complying disposition than some others, and did deliver up the goods, without obliging them to have recourse to law, which might probably have made them incur an expence above the value of the goods.

From this plain state of facts, it is very obvious that a certain clafs of men, are *by law*, in this country, authorised to harafs, to plunder, and to rob their neighbours with impunity; I say to *rob*. For if the value of the goods so seized, should be inconsiderably below the expence, that must be incurred before they can be recovered, a man of sense will rather submit quietly to that lofs than subject himself to a greater in order to recover them. All this is done under the pretext of benefiting the revenue. If, say the advocates for government, as they falsely stile themselves, a law were made subjecting excise officers to heavy penalties for errors in discharge of their duty, they would be intimidated in their businefs, and would not act with that strictnefs that the exigen-

cies of the state require. This is the only plea, that can be alledged in vindication of such an unjust law. But if taxes are only to be tolerated because no other means equally easy and effectual, have been devised for obtaining money, to pay the expence necefsarily incurred for *protecting the person of the subject from oppression, and his property from embezzlement*; is it not an obvious solecism to say, that in order to obtain the money for these purposes, we shall invest a set of persons with legal authority to *oppress the persons and embezzle the property of the subject?* Is not this as if we were to provide a body of men with arms, under the pretext of defending us from insult, and at the same time, let them know, that they may cut our own throats with impunity whenever they please? Yet this we do, and through the force of habit we see no impropriety in our conduct. Surely it behoves all the friends of good government, among which number I wish to rank myself, to expose the absurdity, and to execrate the iniqity of such laws; and with a steady firmnefs to require our legislators to revise these laws, and to correct these fhocking absurdities.

As I observe, sir, that you are a friend to your country, and not one of the *servum pecus*, who always idolise the minister of the day, whatever he may be, a species of animals which naturalists pretend to say, are remarkably congenial to this climate. I fhall, by your permifsion, from time to time, offer a few remarks on subjects of this na-

ture, calculated to turn the attention of the people to some objects which are too much overlooked, but which greatly tend to retard the prosperity and improvement of his country. In doing this, I hope you ſhall find me at all times candid and impartial, totally regardleſs of men, and only attentive to the measures that tend to promote the welfare of the people, or to retard the prosperity of this country.

I have two reasons for offering these lucubrations under the title I have aſsumed. The first is because in consequence of the busineſs of an *informer*, having been confined merely to that of aiding the revenue officers against the subject, the term has fallen into reproach, and the eſsential duties that belong to it have been neglected. I wiſh to free it from this obloquy by bringing it back to its original standard, that of informing the people so as to enable them to withstand the unjust encroachments of revenue officers, when they extend their power to objects that are subversive of *the purposes* for which they were created; and I hope so to conduct myself in the discharge of this duty as to ſhow that it is an useful, a respectable office, and a neceſsary imployment.

The second reason for this title is, that it is evident, members of parliament are often misled in regard to things of this nature, by the false representations of ministers, and their satellites, whose study it must ever be to encrease their own power, by depreſsing that of the people; and as these gentlemen have often much need of information with

regard to the real state of things, I mean to take that office upon myself, till one better qualified for that task shall appear. They may rest assured, that in these essays I shall not state any facts that cannot be fully authenticated by undeniable evidence at the bar of the house of commons if ever it should be called for; and that as I shall never go out of my way to inculpate any person, so neither shall I turn aside for the purpose of exculpating any human being whatever.

Je crains dieu, cher Abner, & n'ai point d'autre crainte.

THOMAS TELLTRUTH.

If Mr Telltruth keeps up to his professions, his lucubrations shall be always welcome; but the moment he shall depart from that strict impartiality he boasts, his performances must seek another channel of publication than the Bee.

EDIT.

ANECDOTE.

WHEN Oliver Cromwell first coined his money, an old cavalier looking upon one of the new pieces, read this inscription on one side, *God with us*; on the other, *The commonwealth of England.* I see, said he, *God and the commonwealth are on different sides.*

To the Editor of the Bee.

SIR,

BY giving the following beautiful little poem a place in the Bee, you will much oblige,

Yours, &c.

I.

RESOLV'D, said the poet, of Cælia to sing,
For ideas of beauty I search'd thro' the spring;
To flowers soft blooming compar'd the sweet maid;
But flowers, tho' blooming, at evening will fade.

II.

Of sunſhine and breezes I next thought to write;
Of the breezes so mild, and the sunſhine so bright:
But these with my Fair no resemblance can hold,
For the sun sets at night, and the breezes turn cold.

III.

The clouds of mild ev'ning, array'd in pale blue,
While the sunbeams behind them peep glittering thro',
To rival her charms can never arise;
Yet methought they look'd something like Cælia's bright eyes.

IV.

At length a fine fruit tree in bloſsom I found,
Which nature array'd, and ſhed fragrance around:
The Muses methought, then, had smil'd on my pray'r,
This bloſsom I cry'd will resemble my Fair.

V.

The colour so pleasing at summer's gay fall,
Will languiſh at firſt, and must afterwards fall;
But behind it the fruit, its succeſsor ſhall rise,
By nature disrob'd of the beauteous disguise.

VI.

So Cælia, when youth, that gay bloſsom, is o'er,
By her virtues improv'd, will engage me the more,
Will recal ev'ry beauty, and heighten their prime,
When her merit is ripen'd by love and by time.

ON THE APPROACH OF WINTER.

CEASE, ceaſe, frail man from earthly joy,
Vain is the hope, the wiſh is vain,
That would on earth be bleſt.
Oh! make it thy divine employ,
Heaven's long lost favour to regain,
An everlasting rest.

There are, who seeking higher joys
  Than time can give, or earth bestow,
    See years with pleasure roll;
Their minds despise the trifling joys,
  For which vain sons of earth forego
    Eternity of soul.

To virtuous minds new joys arise,
  From ev'ry change that nature feels,
    From ev'ry paſsing year;
Not winter with inclement skies,
  Nor death's cold hand which on them steals,
    Can make them yield to fear.

For them more gay, the vernal bloom,
  And livelier hues, the flow'rs adorn,
    To chear their weary way;
More fragrant gales the air perfume,
  For them more sweet the smiling morn
    Doth its clear beams display.

Roll swift away ye fleeting years;
  Your hasty flight cannot dismay
    The man that's truly wise.
As ye revolve new joys appear,
  The prospect of that glorious day
    Which calls him to the skies.

THE BIRD's NEST.

Yes, little nest, I'll hold you fast,
  And little birds, one, two, three, four;
I've watch'd you long, you're mine at last:
  Poor little things! you'll 'ſcape no more.

Chirp, cry, and flutter as you will,
  Ah! simple rebels, 'tis in vain.
Your little wings are unfledg'd still;
  How can you freedom then obtain?

What note of sorrow strikes my ear?
  Is it their mother thus distrest?
Ah yes! and ſee, their father dear,
  Flies round and round, to seek their neſt.

And is it I who cause their moan?
  I, who so oft in summer's heat,
Beneath yon oak have laid me down,
  To listen to their song so sweet?

If from my tender mother's side,
  Some wicked wretch ſhould make me fly,
Full well I know, 'twould her betide,
  To break her heart, to sink, to die!

And shall I, then, so cruel prove,
  Your little ones to force away?
No, no; together live and love,
  See! here they are; take them, I pray.

Teach them in yonder wood to fly;
  And let them your soft warbling hear,
'Till their own wings can soar as high,
  And their own notes may sound as clear.

Go, gentle birds; go, free as air!
  While oft again in summer's heat,
To yonder oak I will repair,
  And listen to your song so sweet

ON THE ADVANTAGES OF MISCELLANEOUS READING.

Lectura testis est temporum, vita memoriæ,
Nuncia vetustatis, et novum delectamentum.

TULLY.

UNMETHODIZED reading is adapted to the many; regular study is confined to the few, whom leisure or opulence attend, to smooth the rugged paths of science. The knowledge acquired from pursuits thus dictated by choice, makes perhaps more useful impreſsions, then all the learning of the schools, on persons who have had some previous formation as to taste, and whose natural dispositions are not prostituted to depravity.

Periodical publications are the chief sources from whence the readers above alluded to draw their information; and it must be allowed they have diffused more general knowledge, then any other species of writing whatſoever. Their brevity allures the indolent, loca-

lity the curious; their wit is a relief to the learned, and the most vinegar aspect, or torpid risibility, will relax into a smile, at the redundancy of genuine humour, so often found in them; while the universality of matter becomes an irresistable inducement to all.

Amongst the works of this kind, newspapers, to the immortal fame of the inventors, lead the way, in point of antiquity, and may be called the original stem, from whence branched out all the literary Ephemera of succeeding times. The famous spectators &c. &c. are all lineally descended from the parent stock, and the idea was adopted by all the politer nations.

Before newspapers were in use, local knowledge was so circumscribed, that few gentlemen knew more of politics, or cotemporary affairs, than what goverment pleased to discover. All who were not of a studious turn filled up their leisure time with domestic avocations, or rural sports, while their minds remained wholly unadorned. Since then, how much are the arts of life, and the taste for enjoying it improved?

These maps of science were first published in the second year of Charles II. by some members of the royal society established in 1662, the oldest in Europe, for the encouragement of natural philosophy. Sir Roger l'Estrange was the first editor, and the first newspaper marked the year 1663, as a memorable epoch in the annals of literature; succeeding papers contained all the supplementary materials to form the manners and the man; and which first gave that literary priority to Englishmen which they are allowed to this day on the continent.

Although this mode of obtaining knowledge can be strictly called no better then a superficial education, yet if we observe how nearly it approaches to what is called

the education of a gentleman as defined by d'Alembert, it will imply more than is at first imagined. He says, that "a gentleman ſhould have a ſuperficial knowledge of all things, and be profound in one, namely, his profeſsional capacity;" he adviſes alſo, in order to ſave time, that readers of history should begin from the preſent time, and advance their studies by retrogradation.

Now though I am not entirely of his opinion, yet we must confeſs it a most ingenious one, to abridge the road to learning; I will even go so far as to avow, that a tolerable body of science may be acquired, by a constant perusal of all periodical publications; and we rarely find a person of common capacity, who reads with attention the several newspapers, magazines, parlour-window books, *&c. &c.* that is not capable of acquitting himself with decency, and even with *eclat*, on any topic of general conversation.

ARC-EN-CIEL.

DESCRIPTION OF A NAUTCH AT THIBET,

GIVEN BEFORE THE LAMA.

Taken from the manuscript journal of a late traveller, with which we have been favoured by a respectable correspondent.

I PASSED my time in looking at the dancers, or playing at cheſs with some of the Thibetians. The court held about thirty dancers, half of them men, half women. The men were dreſsed in different and party-coloured clothes, with their large bonnets of sheep's wool, a bit of coloured silk in each hand, and a leather machine, something in shape of, but rather leſs than a fiddle, at their side; it seemed, however, to be only

used for ornament. The women had their faces washed, and clean clothes,—had abundance of rings on their fingers, and coral or amber beads, bugles, *&c.* on their hands and necks; and each wore a small round hat, the shape and size of those worn by our female stage-dancers, covered with circles of small white shells. They formed a ring; the men and women in opposite semicircles; and five men were in the middle of it. They danced to their own singing, moving slowly round, in a half hop-step, keeping time with their hands, while the five in the centre whirled round and cut capers, with many strange motions, which I attempt not to describe. The second part of the entertainment was performed by four men with winged rainbow-coloured caps, who jumped and wheeled about to the clashing of cymbals and beating of tabors; among the rest was a merry-andrew, with a a mask stuck over with small shells, and a clown with a large stick in his hand: These two were more agile than the others; they carried on an occasional dialogue, which appeared to afford great entertainment to those who understood their grimaced gestures; but as I was not so fortunate as to understand them, I was obliged to seek amusement in contemplating the various scene before me, and the effects it produced on the numerous spectators.

ANECDOTE OF THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

SIR

As the following anecdote does honour to humanity, and ſheds a milder, tho not leſs pleaſing luſtre round nobility, than the pomp of pageantry with which it is uſually attended, I hope you will not think it unworthy of inſertion in your uſeful miſcellany.

PHILADELPHUS.

A MILD ſummer morning had invited the late Duke of Bedford to walk abroad, with a book in his hand. His attention was ſo much engroſsed by the ſubject, that before he was aware, he had wandered farther from home then he intended. Having ſtopt of a ſudden to ſee where he was, he obſerved a woman at a little diſtance from him, wringing her hands, weeping aloud and diſcovering every mark of the deepeſt diſtreſs. Moved with ſympathy, he immediately approached her, deſired her to dry up her tears, to tell him the cauſe of her ſorrow, and promiſed to do her all the ſervice in his power. Seeing a man in a plain but genteel dreſs, looking at her with an air of benignity, and intereſting himſelf in her ſufferings; being entirely ignorant of his rank, ſhe communicated her ſtory to him without reſerve. "I have (ſays ſhe) a large family, my huſband is ſick, and being unable to pay our rent, the Duke of Bedford's ſteward has ſeized our ſtock, and left us nothing but the diſmal proſpect of unavoidable ruin; and I came out to this field to take my laſt ſad ſight of my poor cows, which are ſtill feeding in the park there." Deeply affected with her melancholy tale, he adviſed her to drive the cows home, and offered to ſet open the gate to her for that purpoſe. But at this propoſal ſhe ſtarted, burſt again

into tears, and absolutely refused to meddle with them, " they are no longer my husband's, says she, and if I drive them home, I ſhall be looked upon as a thief, and for aught I know may be hanged for it." Forcibly struck with the justneſs of her reasoning, and the honest simplicity of her language, he gave her some money, told her that he heartily pitied her, and would take the liberty to recommend her and her family to the Duke of Bedford, whom he knew to be a good-natured sort of man, and he hoped he would do something valuable for her. Accordingly he desired her to call next day, at Wooburn-Abbey for John Ruſsel, and he would introduce her to the Duke, and speak to him in her behalf. The good woman having returned him many thanks, and promising to meet him at the time and place apointed, they parted. Next day, dreſsed in her best cloathes she went to the Abbey, and asked for John Ruſsel. She was led into a room and told that Mr Ruſsel would be with her immediately. She had not waited long when several gentlemen richly dreſs'd entered the room. She knew at first sight the features of him who had conversed with her the day before, and, strongly impreſsed with the idea of his being the Duke himself, was ready to faint with fear and surprise; but his Grace walked up to her with a look of condescension and goodneſs which reanimated her drooping spirits, while he aſsured her that she had no cause to be afflicted, but might keep herself perfectly easy. Then he instantly called his steward, ordered him to write her a receipt in full, and to see every thing returned that had been taken from her husband. He put the receipt into her hand, and told her that he had inquired into her husbands character, and heard he was a very honest man, and had been long his tenant. And having given her thirty guineas desired her to go home and rejoice with her family.